

# INTRODUCTION

This manual is a compilation of the procedures used by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Real Estate Section in right of way activities on state and federally funded roadway projects. The procedures are in compliance with the federal and state regulations and laws governing eminent domain.

The LA DOTD Real Estate Section is the oversight agency for acquisition activities in Louisiana on all projects receiving state and/or federal funds. All local agencies and consultants involved in such activities must handle them in compliance with applicable laws, or risk non-certification of the project by the Department. Adherence to these procedures, while not mandatory, will assure that rights of way are acquired in a manner consistent with state and federal law.

This manual is organized according to the following:

- SECTION 1**    **Rules and Laws Governing Right of Way Activities:**  
[49 CFR Part 24](#)
- SECTION 2**    **Overview of organizational structure of LA DOTD Real Estate Section**
- SECTION 3**    **Appraisal Handbook**
- SECTION 4**    **Acquisition Activities**
- SECTION 5**    **Improvement Control Activities**
- SECTION 6**    **Relocation Assistance**
- SECTION 7**    **Utility Relocation**
- SECTION 8**    **Property Management**
- SECTION 9**    **Consultant Contracts for Titlework, Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Improvement Control**

## **SECTION 1      RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING RIGHT OF WAY ACTIVITIES**

### **1.1      FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION             Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property             Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended**

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### **1.2      LOUISIANA             Promulgated Policies and Procedures             Relocation Assistance**

Louisiana laws governing appraisal procedures are noted in the Appraisal Section of this manual. Louisiana laws governing acquisition and relocation assistance are Louisiana are fashioned after the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended, which has been promulgated unchanged except for references to the oversight agency, which under Louisiana law is the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.